

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

SAM-01 DHA-02 /070 W

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R 210908Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

OGRUQMHR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 181

AMEMZESSY TEL AVIV

CONFIDENTIAL DAMASCUS 3220

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, IR

SUBJ: IRANIAN FONMIN VISITS SYRIA

1. IRANIAN FONMIN KHALATBARI VISITED SYRIAN AUGUST 16-19.

AT DINNER GIVEN BY SYRIAN FONMIN KHADDAM AUGUST 16,

KHALATBARI PLEDGED IRANIAN SUPPORT FOR ARAB RIGHTS. SAID

TENSION IN AREA WOULD CONTINUE AS LONG AS ISRAEL CONTINUED

TO OCCUPY ARAB TERRITORIES. ADDED THAT IRAN BELIEVED

ISRAEL SHOULD WITHDRAW FROM ALL THE OCCUPIED

TERRITORIES AND RESTORE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF PALES-

TINIAN PEOPLE. KHALATBARI CRITICIZED ISRAELI DEFIANCE OF

WORLD OPINION OVER STATUS OF JERUSALEM.

2. AT HIS AUGUST 17 RETURN DINNER FOR KHADDAM, KHALATBARI

TOLD AMBASSADOR HE WAS PLEASED WITH HIS RECEPTION IN

DAMASCUS AND FELT SYRIA WAS GENUINELY ANXIOUS FOR GOOD

RELATIONS WITH TEHRAN. IRANIAN FONMINISTRY SECRETFRIAT

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OFFICIAL SHADIK (PHONETIC) NOTED THAT TEHRAN HAD BEEN

IRRITATED BY SYRIAN CRITICISM OF IRAQI/IRANIAN ACCORD
OVER LAST SEVERAL MONTHS, BUT ACCEPTED THAT BAGHDAD WAS
THE REAL TARGET OF SYRIAN SPLEEN. HE FELT KHALATBARI'S
VISIT HAD CONTRIBUTED TO ADVANCING SYRO-IRANIAN ECONOMIC
AND CULTURAL RELATIONS.

3. IRANIAN AMBASSADOR POURSARTIP COMMENTED TO US AUGUST 20
THAT KHALATBARI LEFT DAMASCUS IMPRESSED BY EXCELLENT
POTENTIAL FOR CLOSER SYRO-IRANIAN TIES. SAID THAT PRESIDENT
ASAD HAS PERSONALLY ASSURED KHALATBARI HE WAS DETERMINED
SEE IRANIAN-SYRIAN CONTACTS INCREASE AND DEVELOP INTO CLOSER
OVERALL RELATIONSHIP. POURSARTIP SAID THAT NOT ONLY WOULD
FONMIN KHADDAM VISIT SYRIA
IN NEAR FUTURE, AS NOTED IN
VISIT COMMUNIQUE, BUT THAT VISIT OF SYRIAN PRESIDENT TO
IRAN WAS NOW IN PLANNING STAGE. IRANIAN AMBASSADOR
ANTICIPATED EARLY SIGNATURE OF TECHNICAL AND EDUCATION
AGREEMENTS.

4. POURSARTIP CONCLUDED THAT CHANGED QUALITY OF SYRO-
IRANIAN TIES SHOULD BE WARNING TO ISRAELIS THAT THEY RISK
LOSING THEIR FRIENDS IN THE AREA IF THEY PERSIST WITH THEIR
"RIGID POLICIES."

MURPHY

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